

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (original): A wound treatment device comprising a water-impermeable envelope having at least one aperture, wherein the envelope contains a therapeutic substance, and wherein the at least one aperture in the envelope is blocked by a degradable material that breaks down in the presence of one or more components of wound fluid thereby permitting the therapeutic substance to contact the wound fluid.

Claim 2 (original): A wound treatment device according to claim 1, wherein the envelope is formed substantially from flexible sheet material.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A wound treatment device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the total area of the apertures in the envelope is from about 0.01 to about 1cm².

Claim 4 (currently amended): A wound treatment device according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein the envelope has only one said aperture.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A wound treatment device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the degradable material breaks down preferentially in infected wounds.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A wound dressing according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the degradable material comprises a substrate for an enzyme present in wound fluid.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A wound treatment device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 6, wherein the degradable material comprises a substance selected from the group consisting of elastin, fibronectin, collagen, crosslinked gelatin, fibrinogen, casein, hyaluronates, plasminogen, fibrin, chitin, chitosan, oxidized cellulose, polylactide/polyglycolide copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A wound treatment device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agents are selected from the group consisting of antiseptics, antibiotics, analgesics, steroids and growth factors, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (original): A wound treatment device according to claim 8, wherein the therapeutic agents comprise an antimicrobial agent selected from colloidal silver, silver sulfadiazine, povidone iodine, chlorhexidine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A wound treatment device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 8, wherein the device is adapted to provide sustained release of the therapeutic agent into the wound fluid following the opening of the aperture.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A wound treatment device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 8, wherein the therapeutic substance is dispersed in or on a solid substrate.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A wound treatment device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 8, wherein the therapeutic agent is dispersed or encapsulated in a bioerodible substance.

Claim 13 (original): A wound treatment device according to claim 12, wherein the bioerodible substance is selected from the group consisting of proteins, polysaccharides, biodegradable synthetic polymers, glycosaminoglycans, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A wound treatment device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 8, which is sterile and packaged in a microorganism-impermeable container.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A wound dressing comprising a wound treatment device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1.